

**General Assembly**

Distr.: General
21 June 2006

Original: English

Sixty-first session

Item 66 of the preliminary list*

Promotion and protection of human rights**Letter dated 20 June 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the Japanese authorities are recently driving the relations between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Japan to the worst ever phase, by attempting to internationalize the "abduction issue" already resolved between the two countries.

In April and May of this year alone, Japan decided to ask for cooperation of countries having diplomatic ties with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in this issue, while trying to bring it to the United Nations Human Rights Council and the Summit of the Group of Eight.

The Japanese authorities are seeking to isolate the Democratic People's Republic of Korea through the internationalization of the already resolved "abduction issue" by deliberately bringing it into bold relief, availing themselves of the hostile policy of the United States of America towards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in an attempt to craftily evade Japan's obligation to settle its past crimes by spreading false rumours, as if the "abduction issue" were a fundamental one in the relationship between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Japan.

This relationship is, by its nature, that of a victim and an offender. If the bilateral relationship is to be developed, the latter ought to make due apology and compensation to victims.

I enclose herewith the statement of the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for better comprehension by you and Member States of the actual circumstances regarding the "abduction issue" (see annex).

* A/61/50 and Corr.1.



I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 66 of the preliminary list of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly.

(Signed) **Pak Gil Yon**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 20 June 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

13 June, Juche 95 (2006)

Recently, the Japanese authorities are driving DPRK-Japan relations to their worst phase in history by persisting in their moves to internationalize the "abduction issue" already resolved between the DPRK and Japan.

This year alone, in April and May, they made a big fuss, deciding to beg countries having diplomatic ties with the DPRK for official cooperation in the settlement of the issue and sending Megumi Yokota's family to the United States and South Korea to "solicit" help. As if this were not enough, they are trying to take the issue to the United Nations Human Rights Council and the Summit of the Group of Eight.

In trying to internationalize the "abduction issue", which had been solved, by deliberately bringing it into bolder relief, the Japanese authorities seek to isolate the DPRK by taking advantage of the hostile policy of the United States of America towards it and craftily evade the obligation to settle their past crimes by distorting the keynote of DPRK-Japan relations with the "abduction issue".

The relations between the DPRK and Japan are, in essence, those between a victim and an assailant. Therefore, the latter ought to make due apology and compensation to the victim if the bilateral relations are to be settled.

Japan has imposed upon the Korean people immeasurable human, material and mental pain in the past.

Half a century ago, Japan forcibly drafted more than 8.4 million Koreans and committed the cruel murder of over 1 million Koreans. It also abducted and drafted 200,000 Korean women and forced them to serve as "comfort women" for the Japanese Imperial Army. This is the gravest anti-ethical crime, unprecedented in human history.

Nevertheless, Japan has not yet made any honest apology to the Korean people with a humble bow. On the contrary, it has neither admitted its criminal acts nor thought of compensating for them. In the light of the order for the settlement of those crimes and from the moral point of view, Japan should begin with apologizing and compensating for the most hideous crimes it committed against humanity in the last century.

As already clarified by the DPRK more than once, the "abduction issue" had been completely settled thanks to its sincere efforts.

The "abduction issue" is an unsavoury phenomenon that has come out from the special circumstances of hostile relations between the DPRK and Japan. The DPRK, however, has expressed its official regret to the Japanese Government for it and promised prevention of such a recurrence and made its sincere efforts to appreciate the matters raised by the Japanese side in the light of humanitarianism.

The DPRK sent "abductees" and their children to Japan and provided Japan with nearly 50 hours to hear testimonies from those who experienced or witnessed how some "abductees" died to help it confirm their deaths.

And the DPRK has done everything possible, including the handing to Japan of even the things left behind by the deceased and their remains.

In November 2004, the Japanese Government, too, officially expressed thanks, manifesting its understanding of the DPRK's sincere efforts made for the settlement of the "abduction issue".

This being a hard reality, the Japanese authorities are so cunning as to avoid making public the above-said facts at home until now. They are claiming that there exist some "issues to be settled" in a bid to mislead public opinion.

Worse still, the Japanese authorities are stretching out the truth that the deceased are still alive by misusing the materials, which were delivered by the DPRK in good faith. And it is unreasonable enough and not common sense to demand that the DPRK return them to Japan.

How Japan is so brazenfaced can be found in this fact. Though the Japanese side personally met Megumi Yokota's husband, they said they were doubtful that the man was her real husband. It also asserted that the handed-over remains of the wife by her husband were false, but it still does not give it back to the bereaved family.

The "abduction issue" is distorted and exaggerated as an "outstanding" issue in the Japanese land. A contributing factor for this is the betrayal act of the Japanese authorities who are so unfaithful in abusing the above-said issue for the realization of their political strategy from A to Z.

If the Japanese authorities have a true will to resolve the "abduction issue", they should, of course, clearly inform the bereaved family of the victims and their relatives about the DPRK's sincere efforts and the true picture of the matter. And they should no longer play any kind of tricks of misleading public opinion, which will only deepen suspicions in the minds of the people.

By internationalizing the issue they seek to isolate the DPRK and get their "leadership ability" esteemed at home and instil a new "view of the State" based on ultra-nationalism in Japan and thus justify their policy of militarization.

The Japanese authorities would be well advised to ponder the serious impact the current situation will have on the overall relations between the DPRK and Japan.

The world will not move as desired by the Japanese subjective opinion.

No matter how hard they may peddle the "abduction issue" in a bid to cover up the crimes committed against all the Koreans, our people will blame Japan for all its past crimes and force it to pay for them.